When I ask my dad why he thinks he has a successful life he told me a quote that he liked “try your best and work hard at everything you do.” Unlike my mom who also worked hard getting her college degree my dad paid his own way through a technical school and got an entry level job but through hard work and the passion that he had for his job got to a higher level position for his company. I can relate what I think it means to be educated to his life and is where I get my definition of what it means to be educated. To me being educated means that through hard work and dedication you are able to achieve the goals you set for yourself in your life. Although my parents did have a big influence in the perception I have of what it means to be educated there are many other things that have taught me lessons.

Hard work and dedication is what I base my thoughts of education on and one thing that helped me come to this belief is my high school baseball team and also sports in general. At the beginning of the season our team had set the goal that we wanted to win our district tournament which we came one game short of achieving the year before. The first step to achieving this goal started in the winter months with early morning practices in the gym while the sky was still dark and most other students were still sleeping. Almost all of my teammates did not want to be there and could have skipped the early practices but stayed determined and committed to the team, keeping in the back of their mind the goal we had set. “No results with no work” is what our coach said to us a couple of times in our practices where he could tell that we needed someone to push us to work harder to get better. We eventually did reach our goal and had won our district tournament and as I looked around at the excitement and sense of relief on my teammates faces I could finally tell myself that we had accomplished our goal. Completing this tough task reinforced my belief of education because without the hard work and determination by me and every one of the members on my team our goal could not be done and we would not be successful.

Although I already mentioned my parents my mother is another person who helped me come to my conclusion of what I think education means. She is the one who pushed me to go to college because she knew that to be able to be successful at what I want to do with my life I needed to get a college education. She had also gone to college and knew the hard work I would have to do to complete my degree I could tell this by what she told me and continue to tell me “work hard and try your best.” She tells me this sometimes because she wants me to do my best and make her proud and also to make myself proud and accomplish the goals that I have set for myself in my life. When she tells me this it also reinforces my idea of what education is which is through hard work and determination you can achieve your goals and be successful.